



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE UPDATE

UPDATE ON SEWER MAIN REPAIR ACTIVITIES IN FORT LAUDERDALE

Saturday, December 21, 6:30 p.m.

Following is an update on sewer main repair activities on a 48-inch line in the Himmarshee Canal in Beverly Heights and a 54-inch line on SE 10 Street along the north side of Virginia Young Park in Rio Vista. In addition, below are updates on ongoing cleanup and remediation efforts in the Hector Park area along Ponce de Leon Drive in Rio Vista.

Operations in the Himmarshee Canal

- Crews continue to respond to a break in a submerged 48-inch sewer main in the Himmarshee Canal in the vicinity of SE 2 Street and SE 9 Avenue.
- Industrial divers are on site investigating the break and analyzing the best approach to repair the pipe.
- The leak is not impacting properties on land.
- Neighbors are reminded that the Himmarshee Canal from S. Federal Highway to the New River remains under a precautionary advisory for recreational water-related activities. Swimming, fishing, jet-skiing, paddle-boarding, kayaking, canoeing, or engaging in any water-related activities within the precautionary advisory area should be avoided.
- To view a map of the precautionary advisory area, please visit <http://bit.ly/35l0DuC>.
- Three aerators have been deployed and are expected to be installed at points along the Himmarshee Canal this evening to help improve water quality.

Operations at Virginia Young Park

- The area around the pipe break remains stable with no spillage entering the streets.
- As many as 18 tanker and vacuum trucks provided service today as part of pumping operations at locations in the vicinity of the site.
- Additional 36-inch pipe was delivered to the site and the contractor continued to assemble a bypass line that will run from Hector Park over the SE 9 Avenue bridge and connect to the 54-inch pipe at a point just north of SE 9 Street.
- The section of bypass line at Hector Park was repositioned so that it will be ready to connect with the section of bypass line being built along SE 9 Avenue.
- Preparations continued on a section of 54-inch pipe just north of SE 9 Avenue. A tapping saddle arrived earlier this evening and work has begun on installation. Once installed, concrete will be poured around the saddle to secure it in place.
- A crane removed a line stop mechanism from a section of pipe at Hector Park earlier in the day. The line stop mechanism is expected to be mounted on the saddle during the overnight hours.
- Stormwater staff will remain on site during the overnight hours to monitor tidal valves, storm drains, and catch basins in an effort to address potential flooding issues. Additional vacuum trucks are ready to respond if needed.

-CBI conducted cleaning activities and sludge removal today from Virginia Young Park east along South Rio Vista Blvd.

-Virginia Young Park remains closed while repair activities are taking place.

-Neighbors are reminded that the area in and around Virginia Young Park is an active construction zone.

-For the safety of everyone, access to the construction zone is limited to appropriate operational and management personnel.

Cleanup and Remediation of Ponce de Leon Drive/Hector Park Area

-Activities to clear and secure Hector Park continued throughout the day.

-Equipment continued to be removed and repositioned as part of the demobilization efforts.

-Hector Park remains closed to the public.

-Cliff Berry, Inc. (CBI) continued cleanup activities where needed.

-The south side of Ponce de Leon Drive at SE 9 Avenue remains open.

Environmental Activities

-11 aerators continued to operate to help improve water quality in the Tarpon River and New River.

-Boats patrolled the canal system in and around Rio Vista conducting skimming and debris removal on the waterways.

-Planning continues for air lancing activities in the Tarpon River to help break down the organic material that has been discharged into the waterway.

-Planning continues for air quality testing to monitor the air quality index in the affected area.

Road Closures

-Roads in the immediate vicinity of Virginia Young Park are closed including SE 10 Street between SE 9 Avenue and Rio Vista Boulevard, as well as Rio Vista Boulevard between SE 9 Avenue and SE 9 Street.

-A portion of SE 9 Avenue in the vicinity of SE 9 Street is closed where crews are working on the 54-inch pipe.

-When the bypass pipe is positioned in place along SE 9 Avenue, traffic will not be able to cross the intersections of SE 9 Avenue at SE 9 Street, SE 10 Street, South Rio Vista Boulevard, and the north side of Ponce de Leon Drive.

-The south side of Ponce de Leon Drive at SE 9 Avenue will remain accessible.

Safety Tips

-Neighbors in the affected area are reminded to avoid contact with any standing water.

-If contact is made, please remember to follow proper hygiene procedures. Wash your hands with soap and warm water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer immediately after contact with wastewater, especially before preparing or eating food.

-Be sure to keep all children and pets away from any area affected by the wastewater spill.

-Keep a container or spray bottle outside residential entryways with a 90/10 solution (90% water to 10% household bleach) to clean shoes and other items that may have come into contact with wastewater.

Precautionary Advisory for Water-Related Recreational Activities

-A precautionary advisory for recreational activities in local waterways remains in effect.

-The boundaries are Broward Boulevard to the north, Poinciana Drive to the east, SE 15 Street to the south, and SW 18 Avenue to the west. Water-related activities including swimming, fishing, jet-skiing, paddle-boarding, kayaking, and canoeing should be avoided within these boundaries.

-To view a map of the precautionary advisory for water-related recreational activities, please visit <http://bit.ly/35l0DuC>.

For More Information

Neighbors are encouraged to stay in touch by visiting the City's website at www.fortlauderdale.gov or following the City on social media at:

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/CityofFortLauderdale/>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/FTLCityNews>

Nextdoor – <https://www.nextdoor.com>

Neighbors may also call the City's 24-hour Neighbor Call Center at 954-828-8000.

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